

THE BAPTIST Record

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VOL. 132

No. 46

MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

Preschool Care

Preschool care will be available for children by pre-registration, ages birth through five, at First Baptist Church, Jackson, during the Pastors' Conference and the Mississippi Baptist Convention, October 27, noon - October 29, 2008. Call Michelle Sansing, Childcare Coordinator, at 601-949-1997 to pre-register. All children must be pre-registered.

The preschool departments are located on the street level off North State Street.

Following are the procedures:

1. Pre-register, giving name and age of each child, the parent, and the church.
2. Pick up a security card for each child on arrival.
3. Be sure all belongings are labeled.
4. For infants, leave a time schedule for feeding.
5. Leave the children no earlier than 15 minutes before the beginning of a session and pick them up no later than 15 minutes after the close of the session.

Children may remain in the preschool area during the Convention lunch break on Tuesday if parents provide a sack lunch.

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By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

When the Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC) opened its first Mississippi center in Tupelo ten years ago, there were big dreams for the Christ-based program designed to turn around the lives of women who otherwise might be lost to discouragement and poverty.

Ten years later, those dreams have produced fruit in the lives of hundreds of women who have been helped by caring Christian mentors at CWJC sites now located all around the state.

"The fundamental purposes of CWJC are to equip women for a meaningful life through Jesus Christ, and also for gainful employment as a way out of their present situations," said Cathy Davis, site coordinator and director of the Northeast CWJC center in Tupelo for the past five years.

"The CWJC concept includes both mentoring and Bible study. That sets us apart from other programs with similar goals," she pointed out.

Computer training, money management, health and nutrition, career development, driver's education, English as a Second Language, parenting, and healthy relationships are just some of the topics covered under the CWJC umbrella.

The Northeast center has about 25 clients including the jail ministry moving through the program at any given time, Davis said.

"We want to give the women a hand up, not a handout," said Ruth Chastain, a volunteer mentor and retired professor of nursing at Union University in Tennessee. Chastain is a member of Harrisburg Church, Tupelo, and serves as chair of the Northeast CWJC advisory council.

Ona Lowery, also a member of Harrisburg Church and a telephone company retiree, is an accomplished seamstress who has been the sewing instructor at the Northeast center for five years.

"We start off learning the basics by making simple items, and then move up to more demanding work. Sewing builds a sense of accomplishment in the women, where so many of them have never had a way to develop any self-esteem before," she said.

"Some of the women aren't interested in sewing and don't want to sew at first, but Ona's encouragement and patience shows them how to take one step at a time until the whole project is completed," Davis said. "Bear in mind that many of these women have never had anyone tell them they can do it, never had anyone take up time with them to help them understand their self-worth as well as their value to God."

To help the women understand the importance of their relationship with God and His Son Jesus Christ, Bible study is an integral part of the CWJC curriculum.



GETTING READY – Cathy Davis (left), site coordinator and director of the Northeast Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC) center in Tupelo, reviews the day's schedule with administrative assistant Brenda Reel (second from left) and volunteer mentors Ruth Chastain (second from right) and Ona Lowery. The Northeast center was the first CWJC center in the state and recently celebrated its tenth anniversary. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

"The Bible study is important because we want them to leave here not only with job skills and a sense of accomplishment, but also with an understanding of the importance of taking care of their spiritual lives," Davis said.

Davis, Chastain, and Lowery pointed out that they are uplifted every time they hear another story of a successful CWJC graduate.

"It's exciting," said Lowery. "One of our former students has a job at the hospital. Another former student is studying pre-med."

Davis said many of their former students will come back when they encounter a rough spot in life. "We can help point them to the One who makes a way for them when they encounter difficulties. Wonderful testimonies flow from our CWJC mentors and clients."

Female mentors are always in need, Davis said. "Like the other CWJC centers around the state, we are always asking for mentors from the community. A mentor doesn't have to be superwoman; she just has to know Jesus and be willing to point others to Him."

"It is an exciting milestone for Northeast CWJC to be in continuous operation for 10 years," said Sandra Nash of Clinton, state CWJC coordinator for the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union

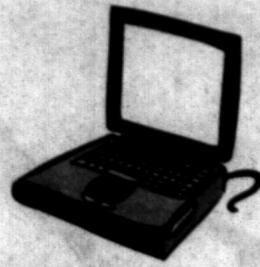
(WMU). "I am very thankful for those who worked tirelessly to open the site and for those who continue to spend much time and effort sharing God's love to hurting women."

"As coordinator of the program, Cathy Davis finds many creative ways to teach life and job skills to program participants. CWJC is very hard work, but it does bear good fruit. Many women in our state now have jobs and much better self esteem due to the work of CWJC."

"However, the greater joy is that many women have come to know Jesus as their personal Savior through the ministry of CWJC."

There are presently 14 CWJC sites operational or forming in Mississippi, according to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board web site. CWJC sites are independently organized and raise their own operational funds, while an allocation from the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering provides statewide support for promotion, expenses, and advancement of CWJC.

For more information on CWJC in Mississippi, contact Tammy Anderson, Mississippi WMU, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3323 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 323. E-mail: tanderson@mbcb.org. Web site: www.mbc.org.



EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



**William H.
Perkins Jr.**

Editor

EDITOR
William H. Perkins Jr.
wperkins@mbcb.org

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Tony Martin
tmartin@mbcb.org

LAYOUT/DESIGN
Benjamin Ivey
bivey@mbcb.org

ADVERTISING
Dana Richardson
drichardson@mbcb.org

CIRCULATION MANAGER
Brenda Quattlebaum
bquattlebaum@mbcb.org

EDITOR EMERITUS
Don McGregor

Baptist Record Advisory Committee:
Marcus Bowers, Brandon
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Postmaster:
Send changes of address to: The
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Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

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BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Tel: (601) 968-3800
Fax: (601) 292-3330
E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org

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Specially made, after all?

Christians have been told since the days of Copernicus, who correctly theorized the earth was not the center of the universe or even the center of the solar system, that there's really nothing special about our earthly existence. There was no creation, there is no Creator, and we are all just biological curiosities that crawled out of a mud pit some two or three billion years ago — nothing particularly noteworthy about it all.

The concept really picked up speed when English naturalist Charles Darwin published *Origin of the Species* in 1859, in which he detailed his argument that life on earth evolved from common ancestors through natural selection. The theory of evolution — that life on earth, including mankind, arose from lower forms that were simply evolving/adapting to conditions — has long been accepted as factual in most quarters of the modern scientific community.

Whether supporters of the theory (yes, it's just a theory) of evolution want to admit it, their promotion of evolution as the all-encompassing, debate-ending explanation for life on earth

has in part led to some of the greatest atrocities ever committed. If there's nothing special about life, if we owe our existence to the ingenuity of lower life forms' ability to adapt, then there's really no higher meaning to life.

If we are nothing more than soul-less creatures of natural selection, then what is the value of an individual human life? If an individual human life is worthless, then why not put the sword to people, or gas

them, or abort them, if we don't like them or find them pesky and inconvenient?

After all, there's nothing special about us, right? Well, maybe there is.

The web site space.com recently published an article written by Clara Moskowitz in which scientists announced their observation that the planet earth may exist in "an abnormal bubble of space-time that is particularly devoid of matter."

What that means was summarized by Timothy Clifton, a researcher at Oxford University in England. "This idea that we live in a void would really be a statement that we live in a special place. The regular cosmological model is based on the idea that where we live is a typical place in the universe. This would be a contradiction to the Copernican principle," he told Moskowitz.

Of course, there is a much more complex explanation for this bubble theory, but it really boils down to the debate about whether we are special or just biological accidents that could have and probably have occurred in other places in the universe. Could there be a God who put together this place in the universe just for us? We don't have to understand every aspect of the cosmological model to figure that out.

We can search our hearts, and we can search God's Word. Psalm 139:13-16 provides us with insight into God's own "bubble theory" for every one of us:

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth,

your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

Now, don't you feel better? We can be certain that there was a creation, there is a Creator, and that each of us are "fearfully and wonderfully made." All the theories in the world can't take away that simple truth.

We are special in God's eyes, and we should fight for that principle until we draw out last breaths on this orb. After what Jesus did for us, it's the least we can do for Him.

73rd Mississippi Baptist Convention
in Samaria...
Acts 1:8

October 28 – 29, 2008
www.mbc.org

GUEST OPINION: *Expanding God's Kingdom*

By Ed J. Deusche, director
MBCB Church Planting Dept.

Mississippi Baptists have always been in the church planting business. As a matter of fact, the church where you belong once had a beginning — a new church!

Healthy churches are designed by God to reproduce and to multiply, thus expanding God's Kingdom on earth to the uttermost. However, 95% of Southern Baptist churches have never planted a church. In America each day, eight churches die, six are planted, and four of those are planted by Southern Baptist churches. Every church we plant begins with the goal of reproducing itself, thus giving birth to a church multiplication process.

Missiologists are reporting that a church planting movement is occurring on every continent, with the exception of North America. This movement has not yet swept across North America, but we are seeing the leading edge of such a movement on the horizon.

Before his tragic death in an automobile accident in 2002, church planting advocate Rick Ferguson wrote: "This is a 'God phenomenon,' and it is imperative that denominational and church leaders recognize this great movement of God and plunge recklessly into the current of His activity. It is costly and counter-productive to swim against the current of great movements of God. Let

us not be guilty of standing idly on the shores of our own convenience and timidity, as a rushing movement of God sweeps others into the deep waters of Great Commission power and effectiveness."

In 2002, Mississippi Baptists began a new focus on planting churches in our state. The Church Planting Department and a new written strategy came into existence, funded primarily through gifts to the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering.

Over the past six years, 71 churches have been planted including Anglo, African American, Hispanic, Korean, and Chinese.

These new plants have reported more than 4,000 professions of faith; received eight million dollars in undesignated offerings, and given in excess of one million dollars to world missions

through the Cooperative Program and Southern Baptist special mission offerings.

Most have a comprehensive Acts 1:8 strategy with global impact. The purpose of new churches is to be effective in evangelism, discipleship, ministry, and missions. They are to impact lostness and touch the unchurched, not to draw members away from existing churches.

Without the generous support of Mississippi Baptists and love gifts to the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering, none of the above would have ever occurred. Thank you for giving to the Lord!

The North American Mission Board is attempting to impact a continent of some 324 million, of whom 250 million are not Christian. The U.S. is also a mission field, where every 11 seconds, four people

die and three of them are not Christians. In Mississippi, with a population of 2.9 million, on any given Sunday more than two million who are not in any church and over one million have never accepted Christ as their Savior.

In North America we have one Southern Baptist church for every 6,750 persons and in Mississippi, one for every 1,400. The challenge increases as the population grows and we become more diverse, representing a wide variety of ethnic groups, cultures, religions, languages, lifestyles, and philosophies — yet most are open to the Gospel.

We have been challenged to "Share Christ, Start Churches, and Send Missionaries." In days to come you'll hear much about "G.P.S. — God's Plan for Sharing." The North American Mission Board's goal in this evangelism initiative is Every Believer Sharing, Every Person Hearing by 2020. It also calls for every church to partner and engage the culture by planting new churches across our land, beginning here at home.

In my opinion, Mississippi Baptist not only can do this, we must do this, and we must be first in leading the way!

Editor's note: Deusche can be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. E-mail: edeusche@mbcb.org.

Panel: Abortion regrets are real, affect lives

WASHINGTON (BP) — Martha Shuping knows the trauma of abortion.

The Winston-Salem, N.C., psychiatrist recently told the story of a client who was a happily married, stay-at-home mom until she found out she was pregnant with another baby. Her husband said he had no room in his life for another child and asked her to abort the baby.

After consulting with their pastor, who supported the husband's decision, the woman terminated the pregnancy.

"After the abortion took place, my patient became severely depressed, unable to function in her role as a mom and home-maker, and she ended up being admitted to the hospital," Shuping said. "When I talked to her at the time of admission, she identified the abortion as the cause of her problems."

Shuping described the incident at an October 9 panel discussion about post-abortion trauma and its effects on women and men. The session, titled Post-abortion Mental Health Effects, Awareness and Politics, was held at the Family Research Council in Washington, D.C.

A recent Elliot Institute poll shows 85% of 626 Americans surveyed believe negative emotional problems are common after having an abortion.

"There is little doubt today that we face a crisis of credibility," said Vincent Rue, director of the Institute for Pregnancy Loss. "If [the] American Psychological and the American Psychiatric Associations can be believed, there is simply no need for this panel today."

Rue said Planned Parenthood, which describes itself as the leading healthcare provider for women, does not treat women for post-abortion trauma. He also said members of the

American Psychological Association task force on abortion report they do not treat clinical patients for such a disorder.

"Who should we believe?" Rue asked. "The people themselves. Women and men who know others who have had abortions, and those women and men who have participated in an abortion."

Priscilla Coleman, associate professor of human development and family studies at Bowling Green State University, said abortions worldwide average one per woman and, by the age of 45, more than 35% of U.S. women have had an abortion. She also said the identification of risk factors involved in abortions plays a major role in research results.

"Among the most thoroughly substantiated risk factors are the following: low self-esteem, perceptions of the inability to cope with the abortion, emotional investment in the pregnancy, involvement in violent relationships and feelings of being forced into abortion by one's partner, others, or by life circumstances ..." Coleman said in a written statement.

Shuping said research shows a high percentage of women experience post-traumatic stress after an abortion. Symptoms include trauma, sleep disorders, and avoidance of music, places, emotions, and thoughts one might associate with having an abortion.

Shuping believes it is not uncommon for women to feel pressured into having unwanted abortions. "In a 2004 study by Rue and colleagues in Medical Science Monitor, 64% of American post-abortive women reported having been pressured in regard to their abortion decision," she said.

'Love Dare' tops NYT

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — The Love Dare book, which plays a central role in the Christian movie Fireproof, hit No. 1 on The New York Times bestseller list for paperback advice books on Oct. 10. Written by Stephen Kendrick and Alex Kendrick, the brothers who also wrote the movie screenplay, the book is in its seventh printing by B&H Publishing Group, a division of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention. It takes the reader on a 40-day journey to strengthen his or her marriage. "To see Fireproof is to want the book, The Love Dare," John Thompson, marketing vice president for B&H Publishing Group said. "At the same time, for readers, this powerful little book stands alone in opening new understanding -- and new relationships." Heading into its fourth weekend in theaters, the movie Fireproof as well as its companion book The Love Dare show no signs of cooling off. Fireproof opened in 100 new theaters last weekend. The movie, which tells the story of how a firefighting captain played by Kirk Cameron works to save his failing marriage, passed the \$17 million mark in total gross and has finished in the Top Five on a per-theater average in its first three weekends. It remains the top fan-rated film at Fandango.com, a ticket-buying website. It was made by Sherwood Pictures, which made the 2006 surprise hit Facing the Giants and is owned by Sherwood Baptist Church in Albany, Ga.

David Reardon, director of the Elliot Institute, believes there is not only a crisis of unwanted pregnancies but also of unwanted abortions. "It is up to us to prove abortion is dangerous," he said during the panel discussion, "because the assumption is abortion's safe ..."

Marjorie Signer, director of communications for the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, disagrees with such research, pointing to studies that show minimal if any emotional consequences to women who experience abortion.

Signer said an issue of Archives of General Psychiatry surveyed an estimated 1,200 women over a two-year period to research results of post-abortion effects on women.

"Generally speaking, according to research that appeared in the Archives of General Psychiatry, the overall mental health of these women showed no decline after having the abortion," Signer told Baptist Press. "As this and other studies show, opponents of legal abortion have very little, if any, statistical backing for the claim that there are dire emotional consequences to women who have abortions."

Signer said she doesn't believe it is humane to make women feel remorse and depressed about their decision, because it is personal and difficult. "Women need support and understanding about what they intend to do. We support women and men in making the decision that is best for them, and urge them to follow their religious beliefs and conscience."

Catherine Coyle, co-director of the Alliance for Post-Abortion Research and Training, believes men also battle with post-abortion trauma. Research conducted by White-van-Mourik questioned 68 men to find results of post-abortion effects on males. Patterns of depression, fear, anger, and guilt were found after the two-year study.

"These authors stated that 58% of the men were potentially at risk of prolonged or unresolved grief, as they did not discuss their feelings or com-

plaints with anyone," Coyle said at the FRC event.

Rue believes the trauma of abortion is hard to publicly acknowledge or support. "The woman or man lose in isolation, dreaded silence," she said. "For such an individual, disengaged is disenfranchised."

Rue said it is a common assumption that abortion is an intentional human death event. He believes this can often cause mental health concerns with both women and men.

"Politics attempts to camouflage what the head and the heart know all too clearly," Rue said. "This is not a wart removal or the moral equivalent of a tooth extraction. If abortion is perceived as violating one's moral code or religious values, we know it is likely to precipitate significant intra-psychic conflict and present a risk to one's health."

Tom McClusky, vice president of government affairs for Family Research Council, said the Republican and Democratic parties have two different approaches to reduce abortion.

He said the Republican platform has mentioned abortion 15 times as a "fundamental assault on the sanctity of innocent human life," whereas the Democratic Party strongly supports Roe v. Wade, the 1973 Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion and a women's right to choose abortion.

"An analysis of abortion data tends to find that the more restrictive the abortion law, the more likely that abortion rates go down," McClusky said. "The abortion rate currently in the U.S. is about 19.4 abortions per 1,000 women ..."

Reardon said men and women who have been involved with abortions often feel judged because of the decision they make.

"We're not throwing stones at people who have abortions," Reardon said. "We're concerned about helping them find healing. We're concerned about helping them find alternatives... that will resonate with those 30 million women and men" who have participated in abortions.

Looking back

10 years ago

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and the Ukraine Baptist Union enter a three-year cooperative partnership agreement. Gregory Komendant, president of the Ukraine Baptist Union, presented a Ukrainian flag and monogrammed fabric hanging of the Lord's Prayer to Paul Harrell, director, Brotherhood Department.

20 years ago

Laurel native Faye Pearson becomes the first woman ever appointed to an overseas administrative post at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. Pearson, a 20-year missionary veteran, was appointed associate to the board's director for East Asia.

30 years ago

Pastor and Mrs. J. Ralph Marshall, Jr., of Springfield Church, Natchez, are appointed missionaries to Thailand by the Foreign Mission Board at its annual full meeting in October.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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NO. 40



YOU CAN RESPOND
RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

BIBLIOCIPHER

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004
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FTNW WXH VAQORZ

AIKZ WXR SKQO, TZO XR

NXTSS NANWTDZ WXRR:

XR NXTSS ZRCRQ

NAJJRQ WXR

QDBXWRKAN WK VR

PKCRO.

INTSP JDJWH-JDCR:

WGRZWH-WGK

Clue: K=O

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John Six Forty-Four

ABORTION ANALYSIS

Abortion is the topic of major discussions in America. Not only is it a deciding issue for many people during an election time, but it is a defining issue for all of us. I was fascinated by the discussion that took place at Saddleback and overheard by the world in August of 2008 when Barack Obama was asked about his position and views on abortion. He said he was Pro-Choice which does not mean that he is Pro-Abortion because as he said, "I do not think that women come to this decision casually." The reason that is so fascinating to me is that it opens the door to say that whatever you do whether it is contrary to the laws of man or God, or the laws of legislative bodies, or directives by institutions as long as your own decision about what you want to do or what needs to be done in regard to others is not arrived at casually then your decision has merit and standing. It is okay. The problem with that argument is simply this. The decision about pregnancy needs to take place prior to conception not after the development of the child begins.

If the Obama thought process is to be carried through in all facets of life, then the parent who does not arrive at a decision casually could discard the child. Maybe the child is not bright enough, good looking enough, or even has some deficiency or deformity. Struggling with what that is going to mean in the future for their life and the life of their family at what point, not coming at the decision casually, can they say it is



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

okay to terminate this life. To say that is absurd is to ignore the reality that throughout history and even in our own day and time in other parts of the world it is a fact.

However, maybe a more significant area of life would be among the population of the aged. What if very thoughtfully and certainly not casually you determine that someone in your care is no longer productive or in your own estimation, not enjoying sufficient quality of life and so life should be terminated. For years, Dr. Kevorkian has pushed for assisted suicide in order to help people who are in such a difficult condition and would be better off embracing death rather than life. Their life should be ended. Not so says the laws of our land, but just suppose for academic purposes a couple was caring for an aged loved one and they had thoughtfully processed the future and agonized over the decision and did not come to the decision casually, but decided that life should be ended. Is it okay at that point?

I must confess that I think Barack Obama is correct in his assessment that women do not come to that decision casually. For I believe that it is a thought provoking, gut wrenching

decision that is made whether to continue the pregnancy to birth or to live with the pain of terminating the possibilities and prospects of a life with that child. They certainly do not casually decide and few decisions of life could be more agonizing. To terminate a life whether six months before birth, or six months before death, or in the crucible of difficulties as the child is growing up must be recognized as wrong or else the sanctity of human life is diminished. But if the decision-making related to abortion can be applied to every other law of the land as a doorway of excuse to do something else then my guess would be that the majority of jails and prisons would be empty because most people even making wrong decisions

do not arrive at their actions casually. Still, the consequences can be severe and the hurt to others can be devastating.

Through the years, I have found it difficult to be a one-dimensional voter. By that, I mean simply to make a decision based on one piece of a person's background, platform, or promises. Every politician I have ever heard has a few good things in the midst of their position. In the case of Pro-Life and Pro-Choice, it seems as though the philosophy has tentacles that will affect every aspect of life and decision-making. I encourage you to do four things.

(1) Listen to what all of the candidates have to say.

(2) Pray about how God would lead you in your decision to vote.

(3) Exercise your right and responsibility as a citizen to participate in the voting process. Get to the polls.

Whoever is selected hold them up to God and ask Him to hold that leader in the palm of His hand. You will make a difference!

The author can be contacted at jfutral@mbcb.org.

JUDGEMENT HOUSE

Star Baptist Church, 301 Mangum Drive, Star, MS 39167
Tours for this 7 scene, walk-through drama begin every 15 minutes and last approximately 1 hour. Reservations for 8 or more are recommended but not required. Please call 601-845-1822 for reservations or more information.

Star Baptist Church, 301 Mangum Drive, Star, MS 39167

Wed., October 29th begins @ 6pm, Thurs., October 30th begins @ 6pm Friday, October 31st begins @ 6 pm Sat., November 1st begins @ 4pm Sun., November 2nd begins @ 4pm \$1 donation per person is requested.

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DISCOUNT BAPTISTRIES & STEEPLES. Baptistry murals, heaters, lighting, seating, wall crosses, pew cushions, krinkglas, carpet, signs. Church Supply Company of Texas, 800-728-8291.



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Save up to \$14,000 on a New 2007 model bus.

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NIS POSITIONS

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, Philadelphia, Miss., is now accepting resumes for full-time Pastor. Send resume with references to Grace Baptist Church Search Committee, 111 Grace Ave., Philadelphia, MS 39350. Resumes will be received until October 31, 2008.

MURPHY CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH, Louisville, Miss., is seeking a part-time youth minister. Please send resume to search committee, 5379 Bond Rd., Louisville, Ms. 39339 or macksimmon@aol.com. For more info call 662-779-3957.

THE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION of greater New Orleans (BAGNO), is seeking a full-time director of missions to oversee the ministries of the association. The full job description and experience/education requirements can be viewed and downloaded at www.bagnola.org. Resumes should be emailed to administrative assistant Lynn Gehrmann at lgehrmann@bagnola.org.

SEEKING PART-TIME MINISTER OF music: Gillburg Baptist Church, Gillburg, Miss., searching for a minister of music. Mail resumes for this position or the interim position to Chris Teasley at 6126 MS Hwy 568, Osyka, MS, 39657 or call 601 542-1230.

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH IN Brookhaven, MS, is seeking a full-time worship Leader to lead a contemporary worship ministry. Please send resumes to 749 North Jackson St., Brookhaven, MS, 39601 or email to ryan@cfcbrookhaven.org.

PELAHATCHIE BAPTIST CHURCH IS seeking a part-time Minister of Music for Worship Services, Adult, youth, and children's choirs. Please forward resume to the Pelahatchie Baptist Church, search committee, P O Box 876, Pelahatchie, MS 39145, attn: Due McKinion. Email: due@rankincounty.org.

DERMA BAPTIST CHURCH IS seeking a full-time youth minister with a passion for God and students. Needs to be willing to join the staff team in a way to help fulfill the church's mission. Send resume to Derma Baptist Church, 213 Main St., Derma, MS 38839 or call 662-628-6635.

IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH, Cleveland, MS, is seeking a full-time pastor. Please send resumes to Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 302, Rosedale, MS 38769. Deadline November 1, 2008.

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

October 23, 2008

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

STATE PRAYER SUMMIT

Morrison Heights BC
Clinton, Mississippi

Mark your calendars now to join the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board women's visionary team, all wMu leaders, women on mission, women's evangelism, women's enrichment ministry, men's ministry, RA leaders and all missions leaders of Area 5 for Personal Renewal.

"Enter-Mission" Saturday, January 17

9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
State Prayer Summit
Prayerwalk, Worship
Celebration, Prayer Sessions
and Worship Prayer Concert

+

"Pray-over Clinton"

9:00 a.m. Begins
Morrison Heights BC
10:15 a.m. Return to church
10:30 Worship Celebration
11:45 Lunch
(\$5 preregistration form
at www.mbc.org)
12:30 p.m. Prayer Sessions
one for women &
one for men
1:30 Prayer Concert
2:30 Adjourn

For more info, contact Kathy Burns:
601-292-3324, 1-800-748-1651
[or kburns@mbcb.org](mailto:kburns@mbcb.org)

Mississippi Impact Teams College Students Helping Start VBS in Mississippi

This summer, Baptist Student Union (BSU) and the Sunday School Department teamed up to send a team of five college students across our state to help start VBS programs. These teams were recruited as summer missionaries sent in our own state to help and encourage churches in their efforts to lead children in their communities to Jesus. You will enjoy some of the comments by students on the team.

Amber Smith

East Central Community College

This summer I taught Vacation Bible School at nine different churches in Mississippi. There was a team of five college students from different schools that I had the privilege of being a part. Each week was very different and there was always a new challenge. Every location I could see God working in a new and amazing way. We met many strong Christians who constantly encouraged us. We had tons of ministry opportunities which made my summer awesome! Every college student interested in summer missions should take advantage of this opportunity!



Amanda Reynolds

Mississippi University for Women

My summer was spent teaching children about Jesus Christ. I could not think of a better way than that! It was so rewarding to be able to tell people about Jesus. Many of them had

never heard. Over half of the churches would not have been able to have a VBS without our help as summer missionaries.

Marissa Farnham

Mississippi State University

Doing summer missions meant fulfilling God's purpose in my own state this summer. God used our team to lead Vacation Bible School. Instead of just leading worship and doing Bible studies or other activities, God made his message real by us telling children about Him and about how Jesus can save them. Just to know that you can effectively minister without leaving Mississippi made us confident.

Aaron Morrison

East Central Community College

Summer Missions has meant the world to me. It seems like I am pursuing goals in life that God planned for me and am becoming who God wants me to be. The things I learned this summer will stay with me for the rest of my life. I have made life-long friends who will be there when I need them. Although we had our trials and

temptations, God helped us overcome them and taught us many lessons. Missions was great, and I look forward to doing it again.

Kevin Kyzar

University of Southern Mississippi

This experience was one of the best of my life. I got to do Vacation Bible School all summer and that has always been one of my favorite church activities. I saw God work and move through five individuals, myself included, and we were able to make an impact on children and adults. Some of the churches we served were afraid that they wouldn't have VBS because they had a small group of children in their services. However, these churches had some of our biggest and best groups! God blessed us all in a very big way.

There are plans for Impact Teams in 2009. For more information, contact Angie Boydston in the Sunday School Department at 800-748-1651.

Mississippi BSU: Making a Difference in the Lives of College Students and Others

BSU is a program of the Collegiate Ministry Department, made possible by your gifts through your church to the Cooperative Program.

Bivo/Small Church Ministers and Wives Retreat

December 5-6

WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY
HATTIESBURG

Leaders:
Ray Gilder
Tommy King



For more info contact the Pastor/Leadership Development Department:
601-292-3305, 1-800-748-1651, ext 305, or kmcdonnell@mbcb.org

DESTINATION—EVERY NATION

Young Musicians' State Choral Festival

April 4, 2009
Swor Auditorium in Nelson Hall
Mississippi College, Clinton

For older children's choirs

Festival music is in the Young Musician's Magazine 4.2, and can be ordered on the LifeWay dated literature order form. In addition, "Witness," arranged by Mark Patterson, Chorister's Guild, CGA 1138, can be ordered from your music supplier or purchased at the LifeWay Christian Store in Jackson by December 2008.



Choral Evaluation

Friday, April 3, FBC, Clinton, 7 - 8 p.m.

This is optional for those choirs who desire to be evaluated by judges. This is not a competitive event and scores are given based on tone, technique, diction and interpretation.

The Healthplex at Mississippi College will be available from 8:30 - 10:30 p.m. for those choirs who participate in the evaluation. A \$15 fee per child will include indoor games, pool, basketball, racquetball, pingpong and others plus a snack meal.

For detailed information, contact Sarah Talley at 1-800-748-1651, ext. 271, or stalley@mbcb.org

For more info contact the Pastor/Leadership Development Department:



Seeing with new eyes

November 3, 2008
CHANGING THE WORLD THROUGH PRAYER

For more info, contact Kathy Burns, wMu,
601-292-3324, 1-800-748-1651 or kburns@mbcb.org

Ministers' Wives Conference

"At the feet of Jesus" presented by Rita Sweatt

Agenda

1:15 p.m.	Registration - Chapel, FBC, Jackson
1:30	Welcome and introductions Alan Woodward, Fellowship greeting
2:00	Shirley Futral "At the Feet of Jesus" - Mary of Bethany
3:00	Fellowship
3:30	"Listening and Loving at the Feet of Jesus"
4:45	Adjourn

For more info contact the Pastor/Leadership Development Department: 601-292-3305, 1-800-748-1651, ext 305, or kmcdonnell@mbcb.org

GET READY!

student
minister's
retreat

NOVEMBER 10-12

Lake Tiak O'Khata
Louisville, Miss.

SPEAKERS:

Rick Morton, NOBTS

Temple BC, Hattiesburg

Randy Hall, Student Life
Birmingham, Ala.

WORSHIP LEADER:

Chris Layton

For more info contact the Pastor/Leadership Development Department:
601-292-3305, 1-800-748-1651, ext 305, or kmcdonnell@mbcb.org

**Sunday
November 16
Parkway BC
Clinton
6 p.m.**



For more info, contact
Cathy Taylor
Church Music Dept.
601-292-3266
1-800-748-1651 or
ctaylor@mbcb.org

Details:
For more info: Contact the Evangelism Department at 601-292-3278,
1-800-748-1651 or jellis@mbcb.org

REGISTRATION BEGINS
Mon. Dec. 29 100 p.m.
CHALLENGE CONCLUDES
Tue. Dec. 30 100 p.m.

Interim Pastor Training



Lee County Baptist Association Office

TUPELO

Tuesday, November 11
9 a.m. - noon

LED BY:

Alan Woodward

Director

MBCB Pastor/Leadership Development Department

Bruce Cappleman

Director

MBCB Church-Minister Relations Department

For more information, contact
Pam May, Church-Minister Relations Department
601-292-3225, 1-800-748-1651, or E-mail pmay@mbcb.org

Merry Christmas to pastors in the Baptist Conventions of New England & Nevada

The Suit Project

• What is the suit project?

For over 45 years Mississippi Baptists have enjoyed sending new suits to pastors in new work areas. Many of these pastors have no suit nor have the extra money to purchase one. By sending them a suit we are letting the pastors know that we care about them and that we support their work.

• What can I do?

Simply make a donation to the ministry. Each suit will cost \$135. This can be a special project for Men's Ministry groups, Royal Ambassadors, Girls in Action, to WMU groups. For churches or individuals looking for a ministry that really touches someone's life, the Suit Project is the perfect choice.

• Where do I send my donation?

Make your check payable to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and designate your check to the Suit Project.

• Mail to:

Men's Ministry Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530
(Questions? Call Deanna Vail, 601-292-3335 or 1-800-748-1651)

Pastors' Wives If funds are available, we will send a clothing gift certificate to the pastor's wife! Often they go without things that they want or need to support their husband's ministry. This is a wonderful way to show them that they are not forgotten and that the support they provide their husband is truly appreciated.

2009 OPPORTUNITIES LEADERSHIP TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Pastor/Leadership Development Department
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

"...the Lord wants to do a special work through you, and he wants you to go where I send you."
Mark 10:43

Start planning NOW to take advantage of the
2009 opportunities for Leadership Training and
Development. Contact us for our brochure!

For more info contact the Pastor/Leadership Development Department:
601-292-3305, 1-800-748-1651,
or kmcconnell@mbcb.org

Pray this day for...

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

"Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him." Isaiah 64:4

Pray for the Mississippi Baptist Convention this week: (1) that each messenger attending will prayerfully seek God's direction on all matters brought before the group; (2) that church staff will be encouraged and learn much from one another during this time of rich fellowship with each other; (3) that above all God will be glorified in every victory shared.

Pray for Europe: (1) that believers in Europe will study the Word of God more and will be closer united in prayer; (2) for trafficked women and children; (3) for the ministers of churches; (4) that more young people will be involved in ministry; (5) for the youth of the churches; (6) that men and women in Eastern Europe will have jobs in their countries.

Pray for health care providers, neighbors and law enforcement agencies to learn how to identify victims of human trafficking (someone whose communication is restricted, who rarely seen outside the residence, who lacks travel documents or who lived in a building that is frequently visited by men) so that they can help these women escape.

Pray for these meetings going on during the convention: (1) 100-Member Board meeting (Exec. Admin); (2) Ministers' Wives Conference (P/LD); (3) Mississippi Council on Bivocational Ministries Meeting and Ministers' Wives Super (P/LD); (4) Lay Missions Banquet (MS).

Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer (wmu emphasis)

3

Pray for: (1) Growth Spiral Conference, Northeast BC, Meridian (SS); (2) Student Ministers Retreat, Lake Tak OKhata, Louisville, 10am - 12pm (106-FM).

Pray for these meetings going on during the convention: (1) Chaplains' Fall Banquet (MM); (2) Seminary Extension Directors (SBC)

28

Pray for Latin America: (1) that people will be saved through the "There is Life in Jesus" evangelistic campaign; (2) for Baptist women in Argentina and their role in God's plan; (3) for the strengthening of the women's organizations in Brazil; (4) that believers will have the opportunity to better their living conditions in Latin America.

Pray for isolated Central Asian women, many of whom will never hear about God's love except through radio broadcasts. Pray that the Truth will set them free from superstitions and cultural burdens they carry.

Pray for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board meeting (Exec. Admin).

Pray for North America: (1) that God will equip Baptist women to help fight human trafficking and rescue its victims; (2) that Baptist women will be used by God to bring renewed encouragement to weakened families including their own.

Pray for the church in the USA: (1) for their focus to be on the truths taught in the Word of God in order to not be deceived by the philosophies of this world; (2) that their focus would be fully on Christ, filled with love at the mercy and grace of God extended to them, and then burdened to do all they can to share that great message of the gospel to others.

Pray for over a million people living in Gaza, a strip of land just 30 miles long and 7 miles wide. Conditions are depressing: they are largely unable to go or go, unemployment is high and violence is a way of life. Many of these people, precious in God's eyes, are truly hopeless. Pray for Christian TV and radio which can reach these "imprisoned" people.

Pray for Africa: (1) for divine intervention in the scourge of poverty and illiteracy among women in Africa; (2) for the political leaders in Africa to rise with the fear of God; (3) for spiritual revival to sweep across Africa; (4) for peace in war torn areas; (5) for God to soothe the evil effects of war: pain of widows, orphans, HIV/AIDS, and rape victims.

Pray for the South West Pacific: (1) that the local women of Papua New Guinea will see the value of using the birthing huts for their childbirth; (2) for sustained life giving rain for Australia; (3) for the Fijian peoples as they continue through a period of political instability; (4) for the young women in West Papua who finish high school and then cannot find work.

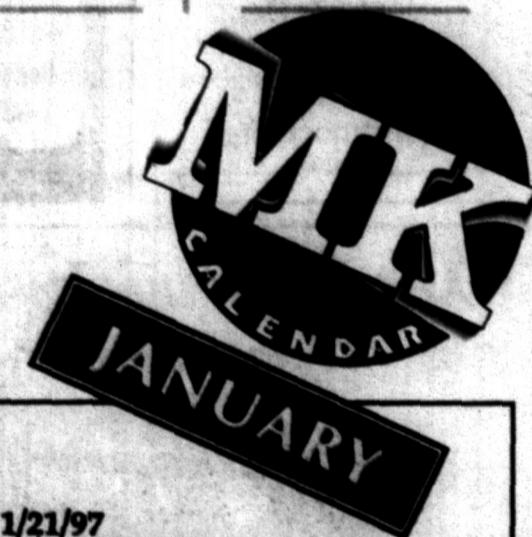
Pray for the men in our churches: (1) to hunger and thirst for righteousness and holiness in their lives; (2) to make Christ number one in every area of their lives; (3) to evaluate the way they spend their time in light of God's calling on their lives in the areas of job, family and their service to the local church and the worldwide body of Christ.

Pray for India: (1) for the protection and provision for believers during this period of escalating violence against Christians throughout India from the radical Hindu factions; (2) for the courage to not deny Christ when faced with the option of denial or death; (3) for the love of Christ to fill the hearts of believers for their persecutors.

Pray for the funding of ministries in parts of the world where there are few believers. Pray that believers worldwide will grow in their sense of the unity of the body of Christ, hurting and actively responding in practical compassionate ways when another part of the body of Christ is injured.

Pray for the Caribbean: (1) for women who are suffering from domestic violence; (2) for those affected by HIV/AIDS; (3) that Baptist women will care enough to make a difference in eradicating poverty; (4) that Baptist women will make a difference in the lives of women who are being trafficked; (5) that drug trafficking will cease.

Pray for women in slavery. Women accept false "job offers" because of poverty, ignorance about the world, restlessness and promises of a better life. As they arrive in the new country, their passports are taken, they are warned that they are in the country illegally and they are forced to be prostitutes to pay off their "expenses."



Bivocational/Small Church Ministers attending the Mississippi Baptist Convention in October

Brothers, smart ladies and friends ... we have a big day planned at the start of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. Our council will convene at 3 p.m. on Monday, October 27, 2008, in the Sky Room on the 4th floor of the Baptist Building. All Mississippi bivocational/small church MINISTERS AND THEIR WIVES are invited to a BANQUET AND DIALOGUE at 5 p.m. We will break at 6:30 to attend the Pastors Conference at First Baptist, Jackson.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2008:

- 3:00 p.m. Mississippi Council on Bivocational/Small Church Ministries Meeting
- 5:00 Bivocational/Small Church Ministers and Wives Banquet
- 5:30 "What's Happening in Your Life, Your Family and Your Church?"
- 6:30 Pastors Conference, First Baptist, Jackson

Please E-mail or call Kay McDonnell (kmcdonnell@mbcb.org or 601.292.3305; 1.800.748.1651, ext. 305) to confirm your attendance.

1/3/96
MISS KATELYN R. BROWN

Parents: Donald & Donna
Central & Eastern Europe

1/5/93
MISS MELEAH D. PEACOCK

Parents: Kevin & Brenda
Middle America

1/5/91
MISS CASSANDRA ROBERTSON

Parents: Steve & Ruth, West Africa

1/8/92
MR. STEVEN D. ALEXANDER

Parents: Mark & Karen
South America

1/15/05
MR. ISAAC BEAMAN

Parents: Brad & Lenora
Last Frontier

1/16/95
MR. AUSTIN S.

Parents: Jerry & Kelly
Last Frontier

1/21/97
MR. CALEB E. HOLYFIELD

Parents: Michael & Patricia
Central & Eastern Europe

1/25/89
MISS STEPHANIE YOUNG

Parents: Steven & Laura
Middle America

1/26/89
MISS HANNAH M. RAY

Parents: Michael & Linda
Central & Eastern Europe

1/27/00

MISS AIMEE YEAGER

Parents: Tommy & Jennifer
Last Frontier

FOR SECURITY, cards will be forwarded. Please send all to:
Child's name, Parent's name, MBCB wMu MK Birthdays,
PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205

PLEASE NOTE: Church members may send a package of cards together;
cards do not have to be sent individually to the wMu.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Rocky Point Church anniversary



2. First Church, Greenwood, senior adults



3. Rolling Creek Church GAs

1. **Rocky Point Church, Leake Association**, held their 150th anniversary Sept. 14. Shown are some of the participants.

2. **First Church, Greenwood**, senior adults attended the Jubilee Conference in Gatlinburg, Tenn., Sept. 29 - Oct. 1. Shown are the participants.

3. The Mission Friends of **Rolling Creek Church, Clarke County Association**, collected 3783 pennies for Pennies for Life in August. Shown are Noah Covington, Emily Boatner, Christine Gunter, Karabeth Kuntz, and Trinity Moss.

4. **Branch Church, Morton**, recently held their GA/RA recognition service for the church year in August. Shown are the participants.

5. **North Morton Church, Scott Association** held a missions celebration for Mission Friends, RAs, GAs, and Acteens. Shown are some of the participants.

6. The grades 1 - 3 GAs of **First Church, McComb**, had a pink party to celebrate and kickoff a new GA year. Shown are the participants.

7. Former Mississippi wMu staff member, Marilyn J. Hopkins, Director of Woman's Missionary Union/Mission Ministries of the Baptist State Convention of Michigan, will retire Dec. 31 after 23 years of service. She came to Mississippi wMu in 1973, where she served as Acteens consultant and later as Baptist Young Woman's Director and wMu consultant under Marjean Patterson.



4. Branch Church RAs and GAs



5. North Morton Church missions celebration



6. First Church, McComb, GAs

REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

1. **Trinity Church, West Point**: 30th anniversary, Oct. 26, 10:30 a.m., followed by fellowship lunch; Bill Duncan, speaker.

2. **Gumpond Church, Lumberton**: 75th anniversary and homecoming, Oct. 26; worship, 11 a.m., followed by fellowship potluck; Jim Futral, speaker; Jason Walley, music; Wendy Walley, pianist; Mark Longino, pastor.

3. **Gaston Church, Booneville**: 125th anniversary, Oct. 26; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by potluck lunch.

4. **New Prospect Church, Carthage**: Homecoming, Oct. 26, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch; Southern Reign, music.

5. **First Church, Columbus**: Homecoming, Oct. 26; Sunday School, 8:45 a.m.; worship, 10 a.m., followed by potluck lunch; Joe McKeever, speaker.

6. **Salem Church, Walthall County**: 125th anniversary homecoming, Oct. 26; singing, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by fellowship meal; Billy Murphy, speaker.

7. **First Church, Rose Hill, Carrollton**: Homecoming, Oct. 26; regular morning service followed by lunch and afternoon singing with Bluff City Quartet.

8. **Toxish Church, Pontotoc Association**: Harvest Day and church anniversary, Oct. 26; services, 11 a.m., followed by lunch; W.L. Oaks, speaker.

9. **Liberty Church, Newton**: Homecoming, Oct. 26, 10 a.m., followed by potluck meal; Hal Ethridge, speaker.

10. **New Elbethel Church, Layfayette**: Revival, Oct. 26 - 29; Sun., 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Jerry East, speaker; Ross Robertson, pastor.

11. **Carrollton Church, Carrollton**: 175th anniversary, Oct. 26; registration, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 10:45 a.m., followed by fellowship lunch; George Smith, speaker.

12. **Zion Hill Church, Wesson**: 125th anniversary and homecoming, Oct. 26; worship, 10 a.m., followed by lunch; Tom McCormick, pastor.

13. **New Hope Church, Sumrall**: 175th anniversary homecoming, Oct. 26; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; services, 11 a.m., followed by lunch and afternoon services, 1:15 p.m.; Gerald Aultman, speaker.

14. **Main Street Church, Hattiesburg**: 105th anniversary and homecoming, Oct.

26; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds; musical event, 3 p.m., featuring the William Carey University Chorale, Handbell Choir, Carpenter's Wood and Brass Ensemble; Russell Bush, Jr., speaker.

15. **Sand Hill Church, Ellisville**: Homecoming and Founder's Day, Oct. 26, 10:30 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Charles King, pastor.

16. **Bentonia Church, Yazoo Association**: Homecoming, Oct. 26; music services with Unbroken, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., with note burning, followed by fellowship meal; O'Lyn Nations, speaker; Raymond A. Ball, music; D.J. Speckner, pastor.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Deacon ordination and installation, Edwards Church

1. Edwards Church, Edwards, recently ordained Doug McMichael and installed Paul Moon as deacons. Shown are Nita Moon, Moon, interim pastor John G. McCall, McMichael, and Kathy McMichael.
2. Magnolia Church, Laurel, is hosting Magnolia's Mission Marketplace arts and crafts event Nov. 8, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. No admission fee. Food available.

3. First Church, Florence, is hosting Eleventyseven and Wavorly in concert Oct. 24, 9 p.m.

4. Vaiden Church, Vaiden, is hosting Brian Free & Assurance in concert Oct. 24, 7 p.m. A love offering will be received.

5. Goss Church, Marion Association, is sponsoring The Blessing of the Hunt Nov. 13, 7 p.m. Free. Guest speaker, Gary Miller. Door prizes beginning at 6 p.m., including an all-terrain Sport Chuck Wagon and a 4-day guided hunt in Illinois. Mark McArthur, pastor.

6. The wMu of Lakeside Church, Hattiesburg, collected and donated a basket of snacks to the ICU waiting room at Forrest General

Hospital. The ladies have adopted this community effort as a monthly mission.

7. Bethel Church, Oxberry, will hold its annual Harvest Festival Oct. 31, 6:30 p.m., with pot luck

dinner, cakewalk, games with candy prizes, apple bobbing, go fishing, s'mores making, and a Bible story time.



COLLEGE AND SEMINARY NEWS

1. Lt. Gov. Phil Bryant, William Carey University Student Government Association President Brian Brister of McComb, and WCU President Tommy King are shown following a presentation by Bryant to business students on the Hattiesburg campus. Bryant spoke about the current economic situation in both the state and the nation.



1. Phil Bryant



2. Brock

2. Coca-Cola Enterprises CEO John Brock recently spoke to Mississippi College School of Business Students. Brock is a Moss Point native whose parents are MC graduates.
3. The William Carey University Chorale will perform at Main Street Church, Hattiesburg, Oct. 26, 3 p.m. Free. For more information, call (601) 318-6175.
4. Howard Keever, professor of music at William Carey University, has been awarded the 2008 Humanities Teacher Award by the Mississippi Humanities Council (MHC). As the award recipient, Keever will give a public lecture entitled, The Roots of Rock and Roll, Oct. 23 at 3 p.m. in the Lucile Parker Gallery on the Hattiesburg campus.
5. Johnny Mattox, chair of the department of mathematics and natural sciences department at Blue Mountain College, was recently named as the Outstanding College Science Teacher by the Mississippi Science Teachers Association.



5. Mattox

The Church Planting Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will host its annual Church Planter's Appreciation Banquet Oct. 28, 5 pm, in the Baptist Building Chapel. For information or reservations contact: Scherl Ng, sng@mcb.org, or call (601) 292-3361. Deadline for reservations is Oct. 15.

The annual meeting of the Mississippi alumni of Southwestern Seminary will be Oct. 28, noon, in the chapel dining room of First Church, Jackson. Tickets are \$11 and may be purchased from Paul Blanchard, Winston Association, P.O. Box 867, Louisville, MS 39339. Email amd@winstonbaptist.org or call (662) 773-3366. Tickets must be purchased in advance.

New Orleans Seminary alumni luncheon, Oct. 28, noon, at First Church, Jackson, in Fellowship Hall West. Tickets are available at the door or at the NOBTS exhibit booth.

Acts 1:8 dinner, Oct. 27, 5 p.m., at First Church, Jackson, Fellowship Hall West. The dinner includes testimonies from Ray & Pat Spence, Great Commissionaries, Robbie Johnson, church planter, and Tommy Gillion, Disaster Relief. For more information or reservations, contact Laura Marler at lmarler@mcb.org.

Mississippi College complimentary alumni breakfast, chapel dining room, First Church, Jackson, Oct. 28, 7:30 — 9 a.m. Meal includes fruit, sausage & biscuits, orange juice, coffee, etc.

Mississippi College School of Nursing will host its annual Health Fair Oct. 28, 9 a.m. — 2 p.m., 4th floor, First Church, Jackson. Free health screenings, door prizes, and \$25 flu vaccines. Sponsored by Mississippi College and Baptist Health Systems, Inc.



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Messiah's Men

on the battlefield



Messiah's Men

is a quartet of dedicated

men from Flowood Baptist Church in Flowood, MS who are spreading the word of God through Gospel Music.

Members of the group are Les Neal, Homer Myers, Jerry Turner and Danny Brock

For concert or CD information contact
Flowood Baptist Church
1649 Old Fannin Road
Flowood, MS 39232
(601)992-6464
danny@cgdsi.net
G. R. Ricky Gray, D.M., Pastor

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

The Holy Spirit is Essential to a Holy Life

Romans 8:5-17, 26-27



McKay

By Bobby McKay

Did you hear about the tomato seed that wanted to become a watermelon? It seems that this future tomato felt like watermelons were much more desirable and pleasing to the taste buds. While in the ground, the tomato seed thought only watermelon thoughts. The seed read about the Water Valley Watermelon Festival and longed for the day in which he could participate. The seed chewed watermelon bubble gum and was eager to become the finest melon in the land.

The day finally arrived when the gardener went to check her tomato plants. When she got to this head-strong tomato seed, can you guess what she found? If you said tomato, you were right. As much as the seed wanted to

become something different its inner design would not allow it. Did you know that for the lost person they have a nature that is impossible to please God? No matter what he or she may do, they do not possess a single spiritual trait.

It does not matter if the unsaved thinks religious thoughts, reads the Bible, joins a church, or claims the name "Southern Baptist." None of these activities will result in eternal life and salvation. For the sake of illustration, they will still be a tomato. There are several differences that we could reference when it comes to Christians and non-Christians. Look with me at some of these essential distinctions presented to us for study and application in this week's lesson.

I. Partnership and Power

The first distinction the Christian can lay claim to is the indwelling and accessibility of the Holy Spirit and His power. Think back for a moment on all the people that you have called "friend" in your life time. When you were a small child you probably had the notion that everyone was your friend. As you matured, you discovered how people would come in and out of your life and often times leave you with nothing more than a few memories.

The disciples were faced with the departure of the Lord Jesus. They had followed Him each step of the way for over three years. He was their Savior. He was also their friend. Jesus left them with the task of reaching the world with the gospel. He knew they could not accomplish this assignment without a helper. That partner was the Holy Spirit. Romans 8:5b states, "those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit" (NRSV). The Savior

shared with the original disciples, that much of the world would despise and reject them. Jesus had been their Immanuel (God with us), and now He was preparing to leave.

When the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost, it benefitted Christians in the days that precede the return of the Lord. The Greek word we have for helper is *parakletos*. This means the Holy Spirit is our advocate, friend, and companion. God has given us a Partner that we should utilize each day as we face the world around us. He is our Power Source.

II. Process and Prayer

One distinction we bear as Christians many times is the neglected teaching of sanctification. Bible teacher Nancy Leigh DeMoss defines sanctification in this way. "Sanctification is the progressive work of God that frees us from sin's control and makes us more like Christ. Sanctification is initiated and sustained by the Holy Spirit within us and supported by the body of Christ (the church) around us".

Romans 8:16-17 reminds us that we are children of God. As

children of God we are constantly involved in the process of sanctification. Sanctification may sound like a complicated word to grasp, but it is imperative you understand this doctrine. When I became a Christian, God began a work in me. That work involves a life time of becoming more like Jesus. Hopefully, you realize it takes years and not minutes to complete this process. Philippians 1:6 provides additional insight on this principle of sanctification.

We conclude our study this week with insights on prayer. There are times in my life when I am at a loss for words in my prayer life. I am so thankful that the Holy Spirit of God intercedes on my behalf. The Bible teaches in Romans 8:26-27, that the Holy Spirit is with us and makes intercession for us in our groaning and despair. The Holy Spirit is vital in the life of every believer. He convicts us, comforts us, and counsels us. He is our closest companion.

McKay is pastor of Oakvale Church, Oak Vale.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Conform to God's Agenda

1 Samuel 24:1-31:13

By Ginger M. Caughman

When we began our fall Bible study we were in the midst of hot humid weather with troubling events around us. Now we have even more economic and political whirlwinds swirling about in our nation and world. How do we find stability in such turbulence? How do we conform to God's agenda?

Paul admonished that we not conform to this world but be transformed. Consider these questions in the light of this week's study about David. Literally running for his life from Saul, God was with him, leading him. He still had daily choices to make concerning his obedience.

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Caughman

1. Respecting God Given Leaders

1 Samuel 24: 1-7

In a cave near En-gedi, David had an opportunity to kill King Saul, but did not. Imagine Saul and 3,000 of Israel's best soldiers searching for David. In the very cave where David and his men are hiding, King Saul enters, David cuts off a piece of Saul's robe, and instructs his men to spare Saul's life. David said to his men, 'The Lord forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the Lord's anointed, or lift my hand against him; for he is the anointed of the Lord' (v. 6).

2. Accepting God's Judgments

1 Samuel 24: 11-12

After Saul left the cave, David boldly called him, holding up the piece he had sliced from Saul's robe. David assured Saul he was

innocent and would let God judge.

3. Maintaining Godly Character

1 Samuel 24:16-19

Saul began to cry when he realized what noble acts of character David had demonstrated in sparing his life.

4. Waiting on God's Timing

1 Samuel 24:20-22;

1 Chronicles 10

"Lord have mercy on me." David needed his relationship with God. So do we. Read his songs while in danger: (Psalms 57, 59, 63, 142). Fleeing from Saul, David often prayed, "Have mercy upon me, O Lord." (Psalm 9:13; 57:1). "Just as Martin Luther used to call some texts little Bibles, so we may call this sentence a little prayer book; for it has in it the soul and marrow of prayer" (Charles H. Spurgeon). David had known for a long time he would be king, but waited on God's timing. Now Saul told David he knew he was to be king.

Christians are to wait patiently and confidently on God's timing! Isn't waiting about the hardest thing in our

Christian lives? Patient waiting requires listening to God, meditating on His Word, and pondering His Truth.

Plan time to read the entire eight chapters of the narrative besides the focal passage in chapter 24. Continue to see how God is working in the life of David. Samuel died and was buried at his home in Ramah (25:1a). David went to Maon and married Abigail (Chapter 25:1b-42). We see the sad end of Saul's reign and so ends First Samuel. "So Saul and his three sons and his armor-bearer and all his men died together that same day." 31:6.

Can we conform to God's agenda? Scripture challenges Christians: "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will" (Romans 12:2). God wants us to be: "Conformed to the likeness (the image, KJV) of His Son" (Rom. 8:29NIV).

In a challenging situation, I cried out to God for help. Starting to pray Scripture: I

can't "do all things through Christ." I was stuck on I. Reading a Christian magazine, this phrase jumped out at me: "To learn about God's grace, read the book of Romans." The message was from God to my heart. I remember exclaiming out loud, "Romans, God?" But I obeyed and began a slow reading. After completing the first eleven chapters, God spoke to my heart, the message for my situation. Now one of my life verses: "For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him is the glory forever! Amen!" Romans 11:36.

A friend recently gave me another translation of the familiar passage with which I had struggled. "I am ready for anything through the strength of the one who lives within me" (J. B. Phillips). Memorize the strength of all Christians: "Christ in you (me) the hope of glory! (Colossians 1:27). Daily submit your plans, schedules, priorities, and agenda to Him!

Caughman teaches a senior ladies Sunday School class at First Church Magee.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

THE BAPTIST

Record

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lit. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. **Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.**

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape-, building-, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Garland and Schuman



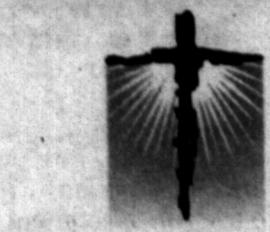
2. Hillsboro Church GAs



3. Anderson, Snider, and Crosswhite



4. Deacon ordination, First Church, Boyle



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

1. Don Schuman, pastor of Hamilton Church, Benton Co., received the LifeWay Pastoral Leadership Award from Dan Garland of LifeWay. Shown are Garland and Schuman.
2. GAs from Hillsboro Church, Scott Co., participated in Scott Co. GA Day Aug. 2. Shown are Katie Mitchell, Hailey Jenkins, and Joy Faulkner.
3. Liberty Hill Church, Pope, recently recognized Louis Snider for 44 years of perfect Sunday School attendance. Shown are pastor Jay Anderson, Snider, and Roger Crosswhite.
4. First Church, Boyle, recently ordained Jeff Mullins, Bo Gill, Russell Steadman, George Evans, and Justin George as deacons. Shown are Mullins, Gill, Steadman, Evans, George, and pastor Micah Rutland.
5. First Church, Eupora, ordained Michael Adkins as deacon Sept. 14. Shown are pastor Travis Gray, Adkins, and Tonya, Kysen & Kade Adkins.
6. Parkway Church, Kosciusko, recently licensed Christ Cauthen to music and youth ministry. Shown are pastor Don Cook and Cauthen.
7. The GAs from Fredonia Church, New Albany, attended the mother/daughter weekend at Camp Garaywa Oct. 10 - 11. Shown are the participants.
8. Euley "Lee" Cazzle Rider, IV, was ordained to the music ministry Sept. 7 at Enterprise Church, Liberty. Shown are Tammy Rider, Rider, and pastor Ernest Whittington.
9. Vaiden Church, Vaiden, surpassed their \$4100 Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering goal by receiving \$4,536.50.



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P.O. Box 530
Jackson, MS 39205



5. Adkins ordination, First Church, Eupora



6. Cook and Cauthen



7. Fredonia Church, New Albany, GAs and mothers



8. Rider ordination, Enterprise Church, Liberty